

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION

Saturday, October 14. 1710.

IN Examining the Disorders of our Elections, I have hitherto consider'd, the Bribery, the Corruptions, the Debauches, Drunkenness, and Excess, which has been so Scandalously the Privilege of this Nation, not in Ancient Times, but even too lately; I hope, for the sake of the general Reputation, no Body will put me to prove the Fact. Such Wretched doings are too black for Ink, they are too Scandalous to stand upon Record—I come now from the Bribery, and Corruptions that goes before the Elections, to the Riots, Tumults, Mobs, and Violence of the Elections themselves; and really, at

the first is Black, this is Red ——— The first Beastly, this Bloody; the first Unchristian, this Inhumane; and both give a sad Testimony of the Green'd Wound lately made in the Nation's Peace.

What a Wretched Degree of Fury in this Nation come to? And what can those Men be driving at, who foment and push on these Disorders? Never tell us of Sides and Parties; I say, without Respect to any Side, they are on the Devil's Side, that prompt these Confusions; that Sathan Bayles and Bursts, to see the Peace, the Establishment, and the Prosperity of these Nations, we have no reason to Question—

The

The Revolution was a Vomit, cram'd down the Devil's Throat, which made him cast and disgorge all the Venom he had in Store, to Infect the Nation; then he Vomited up Tyranny, Idolatry, Confusion, and all the filth of an Insolent Party, furnish'd from Hell, with Instruments of Death, to destroy the Liberty of a free Nation. Ever since, he has with impotent Rage malign'd our Happiness, grin'd at our Triumphs, snarl'd and bark'd at our Peace, and howl'd in his Chains at our Union, Succession, Toleration, and approaching Conquests.

Would any Party among us Embroil us in Civil Feuds, Hurry us into Blood, Enflame and Enrage us against one another, and set the People to Fighting, and Knocking one anothers Brains out in Civil Dissentions? That Party is on the Devil's Side, and doing his Work for him; 'tis his Work, if possible, to undo all that Heaven has done for us, since the Revolution: I Accuse no Man. New Side or Old Side, *Whigs* or *Tories*, that is not the Enquiry yet; if the Fault is on both Sides, I am sorry; I shall, however, Enquire in its Order, which Side is chargeable with it in the Gross, who Encourage it, whose Cause wants it, and who are Mob'd by it, and this may a little lead us to see, who the Devil is for, and who for the Devil.

Mean time, let me tell the Gentlemen who think they are on the Right Side, in these Matters. So far, in short, as you have a Hand in the Debauches, and in the Tumults of Elections, whatever you may think of it's being your Duty, to stand up for your Cause, 'tis doing God's Work the Devil's Way. 'Tis Nonsense in Divinity, to go to Hell to Enquire the Way to Heaven. And if I may Judge in such a Case, he that sets Sathan to Work, to build God's Church, will see it go down at one End, as fast as it goes up at the other. To talk of carrying on the Cause of Liberty, and the Cause of Religion, by Vice and Violence; to set the Nation free, by Captivating their Sen-

ses, and Establish the Protestant Interest by Trampling one another under Foot. The Glorious Temple of Peace, the Foundation of it is the Rock Justice, the Cement is the Law, the Materials are Charity and Forbearance, and the Builders are Legal and just Magistrates. Mob, Rabble, and Tumult, have no Hand in the Work, they often deface it, break the Windows, and Daub with their Dirt the Beauty and Ornament of it, and sometimes pull it quite down; but Justice, the Laws, a Righteous Magistrate, and an Obedient People, these Nourish, Support, Build and Establish a Nation's Peace.

To raise Tumults, and Riots, is a Method, no People that have their own Safety in View, can ever in their Senses think of without Horror. But for People that have a just Cause, a Nations Constitution, and Heaven's Protection to trust to, and sincere Resolutions to depend upon them; for you to flee to the Devil for Succour, and fall in with the Measures he prescribes his Party—I cannot but think it is to renounce your Confidence in him, whose Cause it is, and who has hitherto, even by Miracle, espous'd the Interest of Truth, and Liberty, and who you have Reason to think will never forsake it; 'tis, I say, abandoning all your regard to his Influence, or his Hand over Ruling, and Flying to his Enrag'd Enemy for help.

Shall the *Whigs* practise for the Support of Elections, the abhorr'd Method of the Degenerate *Tory*, and fly to all the Excesses and Injustice of a Party, whom we oppose for the Sake of their Rage, and Injustice? Is not this quitting the very Principle we Defend, and Building God's Fabrick upon the Devil's Foundation?

I know I have a formidable Argument to Encounter with here; an Argument, which some People think can never be answer'd, viz. Such is the Iniquity of the Times, such is the Temper of the Poor People; these are the Handles we must take them by, or we lose them; these are the Strings we must lead them by, or they will stray from us. The Votes for Representatives are

in the People; if we will not draw them, we cannot drive them, if we will not draw them, we lose them; the other Side will do it, and will gain them; if we will not Bribe them, and Feast them, make them Drunk, and Mad, they will Vote for *those that will* — What must we do? Upon these Wicked Practices depends our Votes, upon our Votes depends the Choice of Parliament, and upon our Parliament depends our Liberty, and our All.

Mark the Climax, not a Link of Supreme Power in all the Chain, not a Word of he that Directs and Guides the World in it all: I know we are not to sit still, and neglect Means; Prayers and Tears never Resist Tyrants, nor will it Resist *Tories*; we must set our Hands to the Work, and pursue the Means, but pray take this with you, they must be Lawful Means; who ever Preaches other Doctrine than that, let him be *Anathema Maranatha*. — Will you listen to a Parallel?

You say, the King of *France* has broke Solemn Treaties, falsify'd Royal Promises, forgotten his Sacred Oaths, made his Way to Conquest over the Legal Fences of the Law of Nations — He has regarded no Right, that he may do wrong, and made his Advantages of the Confederates, by his not keeping Faith and Honour; debasing his Royal Character with all kinds of Treachery, that by these he dispossest the Duke of *Lorraine*, while depending upon him; took Prisoners the Duke of *Savoy's* Troops, while join'd to, and assisting his own Army; enter'd *Flanders*, and seiz'd the *Spanish Monarchy*, in spite of a Solemn Renunciation upon Oath; declar'd the Pretender King of *England*, &c. after a Publick acknowledging King *William*, and the like.

Well, Gentlemen, would it be right now, and a fair Way of Acting, to say we must do so too? There's no Fighting the *French* without it; if we will not do thus, we must let him over run the whole World, and the Protestant Religion must sink under his Tyranny and Oppression; therefore we'll keep no Faith with him, observe no

Measures, break Capitulations, and do every Dishonest and Dishonourable Thing, for the Cause will be lost else.

The Case to me seems exactly the same — The *Tories* stick at nothing; they Bribe, Feast, make Drunk, and Debauch the People; they break the Peace, Mob the Magistrates, Rage in the Streets, make Rabbles, and Tumults; they Defame, Slander, and Assault the Reputation of the Men, or the Party they Oppose, they regard no Justice, no Truth of Fact — And must we do the same? No, No, far be it from them that espouse the Righteous Cause of *English Liberty*, to do thus — And yet there is no occasion to sit still neither — The Cause is not to be given up, neither — When they Bribe and Debauch the poor People, you are to take hold of the Reason and Senses of the Freeholders, and convince them, that giving them Money and Drink, is to entice them to sell their Country, to betray their Liberty, and to give up their Wives and Children to Popery — To say the People won't hear them, is to say nothing; they must have Patience, and go on Gradually, and in time they will hear — What, can People never hear but when they are Drunk? Fear it not, they will in time come to hear, and see too, and abhor the very People, that shall make an offer to Debauch their Eye-sight.

This would, in time, bring the Thing out of fashion, because it would make itself useless; when the People are no more to be wrought upon, or byas'd this Way, they will no more put it in Practice — It will wear out of use, as the Advantage they make of it decays — And why should you think it impossible to prevail upon the People's Understanding? — Pray what brought them to it? Was it the People brought the Candidates to Treat, or the Candidates brought the People to be Treated? The People, if the Custom were a little expos'd, would put an end to it themselves.

As to Tumult and Force — The Question is ask'd, in short, What must we do? Must we stand still and be Murder'd? I answer,

answer, *No, by no means*, and I'd propose
 an Effectual Cure; for that *Tories*, like the
 Devil, Resist them; and they'll always fly
 — Defence is your Light by Nature, and your Right by Law; I hope *Whigs* will
 never practise the Doctrine of *Non Resistance*
 — But I abhor the Aggressors, let them
 be who they will.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

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